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# Gimi language

**Gimi** (Labogai) is a Papuan language spoken in Eastern Highlands Province, Papua New Guinea.

| Gimi | |
|---|---|
| **Native to** | Papua New Guinea |
| **Region** | Eastern Highlands Province |
| **Native speakers** | (22,500 cited 1981)[1] |
| **Language family** | Trans–New Guinea<br>▪ Kainantu–Goroka<br>▪ Goroka<br>▪ **Gimi** |
| **Dialects** | Gouno |
| **Language codes** | |
| **ISO 639-3** | `gim` |
| **Glottolog** | `gimi1243 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gimi1243)`[2] |

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## Phonology

Gimi has 5 vowels and 12 consonants.[3] It has voiceless and voiced glottal consonants where related languages have /k/ and /ɡ/. The voiceless glottal is simply a glottal stop [ʔ]. The voiced consonant behaves phonologically like a glottal stop, but does not have full closure. Phonetically it is a creaky-voiced glottal approximant [ʔ̰].[4]

### Vowels

| | Front | Back |
|---|---|---|
| **High** | i | u |
| **Mid** | e | o |
| **Low** | | ɑ |

### Consonants

| | | Bilabial | Alveolar | Glottal |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Plosive** | **voiceless** | p | t | ʔ |
| | **voiced** | b | d | ʔ̣ |
| **Nasal** | | m | n | |
| **Tap/Flap** | | | ɾ | |
| **Fricative** | **voiceless** | | s | h |
| | **voiced** | | z | |

### Allophony

/p/ occurs word initially only in loanwords.

/b/ can surface as either [b] or [β] in free variation.

/z/ becomes [s] before /ɑ/.

/t/ and /ɾ/ tend to fluctuate with one another word initially.

### Syllables

The syllable structure is (C)V(G), where G is either /ʔ/ or /ʔ̣/.

### Tone

The final vowel of a word takes either a level or falling tone. The falling tone is written with an acute accent.

ak "seed" ák "armband"
nimi "bird" nimí "louse"

## Orthography

Gimi uses the Latin script.[3]

| **Letter** | Aa | Bb | Cc | Dd | Ee | Gg | Hh | Ii | Mm | Nn | Oo | Pp | Rr | Ss | Tt | Uu | Zz |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **IPA** | ɑ | b | ʔ | d | e | ʔ̣ | h | i | m | n | o | p | ɾ | s | t | u | z |

## References


1. Gimi (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/gim/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Gimi (Eastern Highlands)" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/gimi1243). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Gimi Organised Phonology Data. [Manuscript] [1] (http://www-01.sil.org/pacific/png/abstract.asp?id=928474542483)

4. Ladefoged, Peter; Maddieson, Ian (1996). *The Sounds of the World's Languages*. Oxford: Blackwell. pp. 77–78. ISBN 978-0-631-19815-4.

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